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Department of State TELEGRAM

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DCT-02 SHS-01 OCS-06 CA-01 AID-07 /114 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8042

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAHABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR VAIHENGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *John Kelly*

DATE 8/14/89

() RELEASE

() DECLASSIFY

() EXCISE

() DECLASSIFY in PART

() DENY

() Non-responsive info.

TOL, EO or PA exemptions

TS authority to:

() CLASSIFY as

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() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 KABUL 2450

KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/28/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. B.) OR-M

TAGS: ASEC POIP PEPR PINS PINT SHUM AF

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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REF: KABUL 2430

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: KABUL HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, EXCEPT FOR THE OCCASIONAL ASSASSINATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AND SECURITY OFFICERS. SPOT SEARCHES OF VEHICLES HAVE CONTINUED, AND ROUNDUPS OF DRAFT-AGE YOUTHS MAY HAVE BEGUN AGAIN. TRAVELERS REPORT AN INCREASE IN FIGHTING IN THE PROVINCES, ESPECIALLY IN AND AROUND THE MAJOR CITIES OF HERAT, KANDAHAR AND JALALABAD. WOUNDED SOVIET TROOPS HAVE BEEN SEEN BOARDING PLANES AT KABUL AIRPORT AND ONE SOURCE REPORTS SIGHTING A NUMBER OF COFFINS THERE. THE DRA HAS MOVED TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR WEALTHY AND SKILLED AFGHANS TO FLEE THE COUNTRY. SOVIET AND DRA ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INTERFERENCE IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE BEEN STEPPED UP, AS HAVE ATTACKS ON THE ZIA GOVERNMENT IN PAKISTAN. THE DISMISSAL OF SOME MFA OFFICERS, THE TRANSFER ABROAD OF OTHERS AND RUMORS OF FURTHER SHIFTS MAY INDICATE A PURGE OF THE MINISTRY. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARDS, BUT WE HAVE RECEIVED ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE DATT-DESIGNATE WILL NOT BE GRANTED A VISA. WE COUNT SOME 46 AMERICANS IN COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

3. KABUL HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. ONLY ONE OR TWO INCIDENTS OF GUNFIRE HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AND THE NIGHTLY DISPLAYS OF FLARES AND TRACER SHELLS HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN. THE ASSASSINATIONS OF LOW-LEVEL PARTY WORKERS AND MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICERS HAVE CONTINUED, HOWEVER. ONE AFGHAN CONTACT INFORMED US AUGUST 26 OF AN ATTACK HE WITNESSED EARLY THAT MORNING ON A MILITARY JEEP BY A GROUP OF ARMED MEN IN A KABUL SUBURB. THE DRIVER WAS SHOT DEAD AND SIX
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UNIFORMED PASSENGERS WERE TAKEN AWAY IN ANOTHER VEHICLE. HE WAS DETAINED FOR TWO HOURS WHILE SOVIET AND AFGHAN TROOPS UNSUCCESSFULLY SEARCHED THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THE ASSAILANTS.

4. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT AT LEAST THREE FAMILIES OF KNOWN PARCHAMISTS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF KABUL WITHIN THE PAST FOUR DAYS. TWO CONTACTS CLAIMED THAT MUJAHEDDIN BURNED A GOVERNMENT LIBRARY NEAR THE BALA HISAR FORT ON AUGUST 23. ANOTHER ASSERTED THAT RESISTANCE WORKERS BROKE INTO A MATERIALS SHED AT A DEFENSE MINISTRY CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CAMP NEAR PUL-I-CHARKI ON AUGUST 25 AND STOLE

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LARGE AMOUNTS OF DYNAMITE, BLASTING CAPS AND SEVERAL TRIGGERING DEVICES.

5. POLICE AND SOVIET MILITARY SPOT SEARCHES OF VEHICLES HAVE CONTINUED. (EMBOFFS WERE STOPPED BY SOVIET TROOPS AUGUST 26, BUT WAVED ON AFTER A CURSORY CHECK. ON AUGUST 27 MFA PROVIDED IDENTIFY CARDS TO ALL BUT TWO MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF.) TWO OFTEN-RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCES INFORMED US ON AUGUST 26 AND 27 THAT AFGHAN POLICE AND MILITARY PRESS GANGS ARE AGAIN ROUNDING UP YOUNG MEN IN THE CITY FOR INDUCTION INTO THE ARMY. THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCED ITS STAFF TO DONATE BLOOD FOR WOUNDED TROOPS AUGUST 27. AN AFGHAN SOURCE QUOTED AN ARMY OFFICER AS SAYING THE MILITARY HOSPITAL IN KABUL NEEDS 60 LITERS OF BLOOD A DAY, AND THAT ALL SOLDIERS ARE BEING ASKED FOR DONATIONS.

6. SEVERAL TRAVELERS FROM OUTLYING AREAS HAVE REPORTED OFTEN HEAVY FIGHTING IN ALMOST EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY. (THEIR STORIES ARE OFTEN SUPPORTED, ALBEIT INADVERTENTLY, BY CLAIMS OF DRA VICTORIES OVER "BANDITS" IN THE LOCAL MEDIA.) THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ACCOUNTS OF CONTINUING FIGHTING IN THE WESTERN CITY OF HERAT DESPITE SOVIET AND AFGHAN ATTEMPTS TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER IT. WE HAVE HEARD FOUR SEPARATE VERSIONS OF WHAT WAS RUMORED TO BE A HEAVY SOVIET BOMBING ATTACK ON THE CENTER OF HERAT SOMETIME LAST WEEK, BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM

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ANY OF THEM. EACH ACCOUNT TOLD OF A BOMB KILLING HUNDREDS OF CIVILIANS IN OR NEAR A CENTRAL MOSQUE.

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8043

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY Dacca

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR VAIHENGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 KABUL 2450

7. TWO CONTACTS HAVE PASSED ALONG NEWS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN
RESISTANCE FORCES AND AFGHAN AND SOVIET TROOPS IN KANDAHAR
DURING THE PAST WEEK. HUNDREDS OF AFGHAN AND DOZENS OF
SOVIET TROOPS ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE FIGHTING
(BUT LITTLE IS MENTIONED ABOUT MUJAHEDDIN CASUALTIES).

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SEVERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ARE RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN PUT
TO THE TORCH, AND ONE SOURCE INSISTED THAT TWO SOVIET HELI-

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COPTER GUNSHIPS WERE SHOT DOWN BY THE RESISTANCE. ONE KABUL RESIDENT INFORMED US THAT HIS BROTHER AND FAMILY MOVED TO KABUL TO ESCAPE THE SHOOTING IN KANDAHAR. THE BROTHER TOLD HIM THAT "MANY" KANDAHAR RESIDENTS HAD ALSO FLED THE CITY, SOME GOING TO PAKISTAN.

8. REPORTS FROM JALALABAD INDICATE THAT THE CITY AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE CONTINUED TO SUFFER DISRUPTIONS AS A RESULT OF MUJAHEDDIN ATTACKS. THE ROAD BETWEEN KABUL AND JALALABAD HAS BEEN OPEN ONLY SPORADICALLY FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS, AND SERVANTS TELL US THAT THE REASON FOR A DROP IN THE PRICES OF MELONS IS THAT THE TRUCKS OFTEN CANNOT GET THROUGH TO PAKISTAN. SEVERAL OTHER SOURCES HAVE ASSERTED THAT A LARGE SECTION OF THE ROAD WAS BLOWN UP BY INSURGENTS. (THE STORY OF A HELICOPTER ATTACK ON WEST GERMANS AND A GROUP OF INSURGENTS ON THE KABUL-JALALABAD ROAD IS, AFTER ALL, INCORRECT, ACCORDING TO THE FRG EMBASSY. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT A VALID VERSION OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL THE GERMANS INVOLVED ARE ABLE TO GET TO PAKISTAN TO REPORT TO THE EMBASSY THERE.) AN AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICER SAW SEVERAL WOUNDED SOVIET TROOPS BEING HERDED ONTO A MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT ON AUGUST 27. THE FRENCH CHARGE CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN "DOZENS" OF COFFINS BEING LOADED ONTO ANOTHER.

9. OTHER REPORTS HAVE TOLD OF AN INSURGENT ATTACK ON SOVIET CONVOYS AT QALAT AND MOKUR ALONG THE KABUL-KANDAHAR ROAD, AND NEAR SAMANGAN ON THE HIGHWAY TO MAZAR-I-SHARIF. ANOTHER SOURCE CLAIMED THAT A RESISTANCE GROUP BLEW UP THE POWER STATION AT THE GUL BAHAR TEXTILE MILL JUST SOUTH OF THE SALANG PASS OFF THE SAME HIGHWAY. THE PLANT HAS BEEN CLOSED
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UNDER MUJAHEDDIN PRESSURE FOR FOUR MONTHS NOW, AND DRA OFFICIALS ARE SAID TO BE THREATENING TO SEND THE WORKERS TO COAL MINES IN THE SOUTH IF THEY DO NOT RETURN TO WORK.

10. SEVERAL WOULD-BE REFUGEES HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE DRA IS ONCE AGAIN REFUSING TO ISSUE PASSPORTS, ESPECIALLY TO DOCTORS AND OTHER HIGHLY SKILLED PERSONS. (MOST OF THESE WHO HAVE MENTIONED THIS HAVE THEMSELVES BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN PASSPORTS.) OTHER FAMILIES KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY HAVE BEEN STOPPED AT KABUL AIRPORT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO FLY TO KANDAHAR TO JOIN THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY TO PAKISTAN.

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OTHERS HAVE INFORMED US THAT ALL SALES OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MUST NOW BE APPROVED BY XAD, THE SECRET POLICE, TO INSURE THAT THE OWNTJS ARE NOT PLANNING TO FLEE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HEARD THAT THE DRA WAS ONLY ABLE TO FIND ABOUT 700 STUDENTS TO SEND TO THE USSR FOR SCHOOLING UNDER A PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR 1,500. BUT THE SON OF AN EMBASSY FSN (PROTECT) WAS JAILED THIS WEEK ALONG WITH 11 OF HIS FRIENDS WHEN THEY COMPLAINED THAT THE SCHOLARSHIPS TO SEVERAL EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD BEEN GIVEN ONLY TO AVOWED PARCHANISTS.

11. THE LOCAL MEDIA HAS CONTINUED TO FEATURE STRONG DRA (AND OTHER) ATTACKS ON THE U.S. AND OTHER "IMPERIALISTS, HEGEMONISTS AND REACTIONARIES." ONE STORY ABOUT THE SUPPLY OF U.S.-FINANCED EGYPTIAN WEAPONS TO RESISTANCE FORCES WAS ECHOED BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR DURING A COURTESY CALL BY WEST GERMAN CHARGE (STRICTLY PROTECT). THE AMBASSADOR, AFTER COMPLAINING THAT THE FRG "LISTENED TOO MUCH" TO THE U.S., CHARGED THAT EGYPT WAS SHIPPING SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, INCLUDING SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES, TO AFGHAN "BANDITS". MOST OF THE WEAPONS WERE SAID TO BE THOSE THE SOVIETS GAVE TO EGYPT IN THE PAST. THE AMBASSADOR CLAIMED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE URGED TO DO THIS BY THE U.S., WHICH IN TURN WAS REPLACING THE WEAPONS WITH NEWER AMERICAN EQUIPMENT.

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DCT-02 SMS-01 OCS-06 CA-01 AID-07 /114 W
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*FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8044*

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCEUR VAIHENGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 KABUL 2450

12. MEDIA ATTACKS ON PAKISTAN HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY NUMEROUS
AND VITRIOLIC IN RECENT DAYS. THE LATEST EXAMPLE WAS AN
ARTICLE IN THE AUGUST 27 KABUL NEW TIMES (WHICH APPEARED
ON AUGUST 28) HEADLINED "PAKISTAN: PEOPLE'S DISCONTENT ON
THE RISE." THIS ARTICLE, WRITTEN IN VERY GOOD ENGLISH

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(PROBABLY BY THE SOVIETS), REFERRED TO "CURRENT MASS DEMON-
STRATIONS" IN PAKISTAN AND MAINTAINED THAT ISLAMABAD'S "SHARP

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DECLINE" IN INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE WAS DUE TO UNDEMOCRATIC MILITARY RULERS WHO ALLOWED THE COUNTRY TO BE TURNED INTO "A SPRINGBOARD OF THE UNDECLARED WAR OF WASHINGTON AND PEKING AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S SYSTEM IN AFGHANISTAN."

13. TWO NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADORS (DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MOKAMEL TO IRAQ AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ABEDI TO TURKEY) ARE DUE TO DEPART FOR THEIR POSTS THIS WEEK, AND NO REPLACEMENT HAS BEEN NAMED FOR EITHER. TWO OTHER PROTOCOL OFFICERS WERE SUDDENLY REPLACED THIS WEEK, AND THERE IS A RUMOR THAT OTHER OLD HANDS ARE ALSO SOON TO BE DISMISSED. SEVERAL OTHER CAREER OFFICERS ARE REPORTED PREPARING FOR DEPARTURE TO THE FIELD, AND THERE IS A RUMOR ON THE DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DOST IS TO BE SENT TO THE UN A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE. IF ALL THE RUMORS TURN OUT TO BE TRUE, IT WILL AMOUNT TO A MAJOR PURGE OF THE MFA, WHICH IS PRESENTLY SAID TO BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF BABRAK KARMAI'S BROTHER BARYALAI.

14. THE MFA THIS WEEK REFUSED TO CLEAR THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF DATT-DESIGNATE DELAMAIN "UNTIL HE IS GRANTED A VISA." AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THE DRA HAS NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING HIM TO ENTER THE COUNTRY. AT THE MOMENT, WE COUNT AT LEAST 44 AMERICANS IN KABUL, AND HAVE HEARD THAT TWO OR THREE OTHERS MAY BE ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. THERE ARE PRESENTLY 15 ON BOARD IN THE EMBASSY. GRIFFIN

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